FFA
new horizons
The magazine of the National FFA Organization
August 2000

the candidates
THE INSIDE SCOOP ON BUSH AND GORE

pizza
A SLICE OF AGRICULTURE

it takes a team
A NASCAR LESSON IN TEAMWORK

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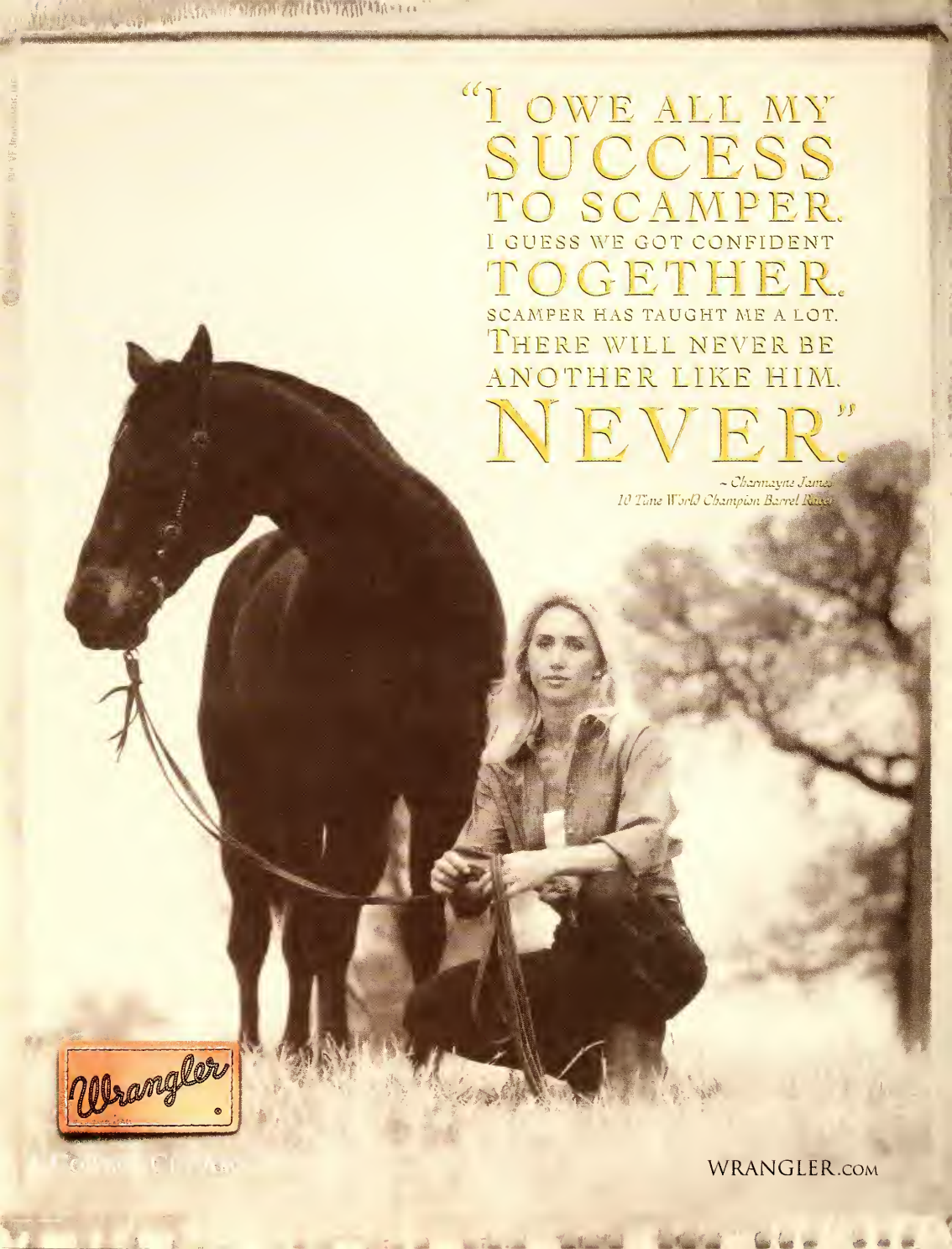
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August 2000 Volume 48 Number 6

FFA new horizons

Official Magazine of the National FFA Organization

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contents

August 2000

coverstory

18 Pizza—A Slice of Agriculture

When is the last time you had pizza? At lunch today? For dinner last night? You might not think about it while you're devouring your fourth piece of pepperoni, but pizzas are rooted in agriculture. See what it takes to get one to your door.

features

10 The Home Stretch

It seems that George W. Bush and Al Gore have made the presidential race a two-man contest. We did a little comparison shopping on the two. Find out their views on agriculture, and learn the names of Bush's cows and Gore's college buddy who's now a famous actor.

12 Back to the Basics

Where would we be without fertile soil and clean water? We wouldn't. That's why Melissa Kenney, an FFA member from Bridgewater, Virginia, plans to be among the new generation of conservationists who will strive to make the planet a better place to live.

16 Volunteerism

Need some reasons to volunteer your precious time? One: You'll gain personal satisfaction just knowing that you've improved the quality of life in your community. Two: You can include volunteerism projects in your FFA chapter's Program of Activities.

28 It Takes a Team

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be in a NASCAR pit crew? Find out as we attend the Coca-Cola 600 to watch the No. 97 John Deere-FFA car. You'll see how a pit crew, like an FFA chapter officer team, pulls together to achieve success.

FFA Mission Statement
FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Agricultural Education Mission
Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

departments

5 national officer q&a
6 ffa stars
8 ffa in action
20 body and soul
22 what's hot/what's not
24 your money
26 point and click NEW DEPARTMENT
32 last laff

Check out National FFA Online www.ffa.org

On the cover: Erin West and Andy Ziegler, members of the Sycamore FFA Chapter in Sycamore, Illinois. Photo by Shane Morgan.

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one on one with
Leslie Small

Tell us about growing up in Arkansas City.
We call it "Ark City" for short and it's a nice town in southern Kansas. We have about 900 students in the high school, so it's a decent sized community. The highlight of the year is the fall Arkalalah festival. We have a huge parade and carnival and they even let school out for a day. After my high school graduation my family moved from Ark City, so I haven't been back as often as I'd like. I miss the people and the pretty golden wheat fields that surround the town during harvest season.

If you weren't a national FFA officer, what would you be doing now?
I would be ready to start my junior year in college. Before leaving I was involved with student government, so I would probably be continuing my involvement in that. I imagine I would also be practicing with the K-State livestock judging team. I might also be more involved with the campus Methodist youth group and the volunteer grade school reading program in Manhattan, Kansas. Oh, and I also want to learn to speak German!

Is the year flying by so far?
Yes! I can't believe summer is almost over. When I'm traveling, it's easy to lose track of time. It seems like I was in Japan the other day and that was several months ago. Our team has talked about how important it is to live each day to its very fullest.

What sparked your interest in agricultural economics?
I like it because it is so broad and there are many related careers. I've always been interested in the business side of agriculture, and I enjoyed my economics course in high school. I'm even more confident with my major now because I've chosen to specialize in the international trade and marketing aspects of agricultural economics.

What is the sculpture you're holding?
I made two eyes that represent the vision FFA members and our organization have as we enter the new millennium. As I travel, I am frequently asked if I think there is a future for agriculture. I know there is because I see it in the eyes of FFA members every day.

Lsmall@ffa.org

VITALS

Hometown: Arkansas City, Kansas
Age: 20
Chapter: Arkansas City FFA
Advisor: Matthew Schweer and Jacob Larison
Chair: Beef production and diversified livestock
Education: Junior at Kansas State University
Major: Agricultural economics
Parents' names: Shedaisy and Mark Wills
What I'm reading: The Applause of Heaven by Max Lucado

TIMELINE

Age

- **14** • joined FFA
  • first place in state FFA creed competition
- **15** • participated in local PALS program
  • second place in state prepared public speaking
- **16** • member of reserve national champion livestock judging team
  • elected chapter president
- **17** • elected 1998-99 state FFA president
  • member of second place Kansas parliamentary procedure team
  • district star farmer
- **18** • elected national FFA central region vice president

Central region vice president: Leslie Small

ffa stars

Members making a difference

calling all stars

To nominate yourself or another FFA member for "FFA Stars," drop us a detailed note telling us why you or your nominee is a star. Include a photo and the nominee's name, address, phone, birthdate, FFA advisor's name and phone. If nominating someone else, also include your name and phone number.

FFA New Horizons "Stars"
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960

MISSOURI

Adam Henderson

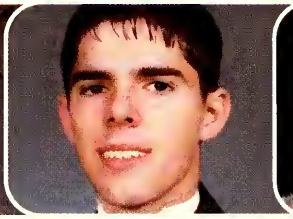
Seventeen-year-old Adam keeps in step with the high school marching band, and he works hard to make sure that only the first two letters of the alphabet appear on his report card. Much of his remaining time goes into FFA activities. The Mexico FFA Chapter named him a star greenhand his freshman year, and he's now first vice president. He maintains a landscape management SAE and is now in the process of starting a small-animal care project.

OREGON

Andi Kohlmeyer

When she's not speeding down mountains on a snowboard or running long distance races, 18-year-old Andi focuses on academics and leadership. As a recent graduate, she can look back on her high school days as nothing short of successful. The co-valedictorian played three sports, served as chapter reporter and president, as well as officer for her class and the entire student body. Andi plans to attend Western Oregon University, where she will play softball.

LOUISIANA



Clark Vincent

The classroom and the showring are where Clark, 18, has made his mark in high school. This South Beauregard FFA Chapter member, who served as both reporter and vice president, takes special pride in exhibiting swine and his own market lambs. He recently graduated Magna Cum Laude-Regent Scholar, which distinguishes him as one of the top students in the state. Clark's other FFA involvement includes forestry and livestock judging, as well as a trip to the national FFA convention.

PENNSYLVANIA

Julie Fulton

She scored the first goal in the history of girls' soccer at Big Spring High School in Newville. This 18-year-old FFA member is more proud of her leadership skills, however. She's a captain on both the soccer and field hockey teams. Her classmates recently voted Julie homecoming queen, a well-deserved honor for this hard worker, who spends much of her time on FFA projects and working at her family's dairy farm. Julie is also very active in her church's youth group.

NEW MEXICO

Bethanie Overbey

Doing what you love is a key to happiness. Bethanie, a 17-year-old Goddard FFA Chapter member, is taking advantage of FFA to pursue her interest in landscape design. When she first joined FFA, she excelled in horticulture and floriculture. Then she moved on to land judging, homesite design and landscape design. After an award-winning trip to the state FFA convention, officials from a local church asked her to do their landscape design. Bethanie is considering a career in landscape architecture.

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ffa in action

MISSOURI

Kindergarten Zoo

On a warm day in May, Amber Cardwell brought her horse, Paul Wrigley brought his steer and Johnny Swartz brought his guinea to the Clinton FFA Chapter's petting zoo for local kindergartners. Other FFA members helped round up an assortment of puppies, kittens, ducks and sheep. While the kindergartners petted and watched animals, FFA members shared fun facts about the creatures. The youngsters also learned a few lessons in farm safety.

Jenny Wunderlich demonstrates her talents in the pole bending event.

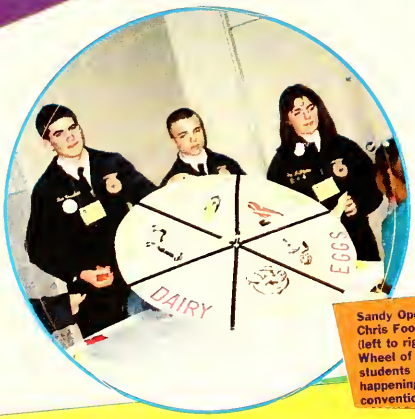
Jenny Lusty, just crowned the state Little Britches rodeo queen.

Wade Grinager takes a bull ride in the finals at a state competition.

MINNESOTA

Rodeo Trio

Wade Grinager, Jenny Lusty and Jenny Wunderlich—all members of the Parkers Prairie FFA Chapter—have been practicing their sport most days since they were six years old. Their trophy cases are jammed full of buckles and trophies from local, regional and national rodeo events. Mike McDaniel, the chapter advisor, says Wade is considered one of the nation's top high school bull riders, while Jenny Lusty is among the best Little Britches barrel racers in the land. Jenny Wunderlich, a Wrangler All-Star team member, is a pole bending specialist who has excelled in state and national competitions. Hats off to these three rodeo riders!



Sandy Opdyke, Todd Esbenshade, Chris Foor and Jennifer McWilliams (left to right) host a game of Wheel of Food for elementary students as a part of the PALS happenings at the national FFA convention.

PENNSYLVANIA

Wheel of Food

Elementary school students in Louisville, Kentucky, now know a lot more about team building and food production. As part of the Partners in Active Learning Support (PALS) activities at last year's national FFA convention in Louisville, West Snyder FFA Chapter members brought the Wheel of Food, a game that helps children learn more about the food they eat every day. For a lesson in teamwork, the chapter members set up an imaginary peanut butter river that could only be crossed using teamwork, something these FFA members practice every day.

Is your **chapter in action?**

If so, let us know about it!

Send to:
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Be sure to send an actual photograph showing members from your chapter.

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The presidential election is just around the corner

the home stretch

Here's a quick look at the top candidates

On November 7, citizens from all across the United States will head for voting booths to elect a new president. Until then, the candidates are doing everything they can to appeal to the voting public and improve the odds that they'll be the one to replace President William Jefferson Clinton, the country's leader since January of 1993.

The top job won't go to just anyone. The eventual election-day victor will have endured dozens of major debates, given hundreds of speeches and shaken thousands of hands. He'll have earned the support, if not the confidence, of more American people than anyone else in the race. And that's no simple feat.

Still, going into the final stretch, the last months before the ballots are cast, there are a few predictable frontrunners. You may already know Al Gore, the leading Democratic contender and the current Vice President. And you've probably heard about George W. Bush, the Republican leader and the present Governor of Texas. If recent history can be used as a measure, in all likelihood one of these two men will be the next president of the United States.

Who's better suited to run our country? You decide...

George W. Bush

View on agriculture: "Agriculture is not just one industry among many. It is the heart of our economy. And it symbolizes some of the best and finest things about our nation: independence, hard work, risk-taking, and sacrifice."

Among other things, Bush wants to ensure that farmers get the emergency assistance they need from the government when they need it and create tax-deferred savings accounts that allow farmers to make it through tough years. He wants to eliminate the so-called "death tax" so that family farms and businesses can be passed from one generation to the next without having to pay a tax to the federal government. Finally, he feels objections to biotech crops are "unfounded in science, unjustified in law, and unfair in practice."

Republican National Committee: 310 First Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20003; 202/863-8500; www.rnc.org

Party: Republican

Contact: 512/637-2000; www.georgewbush.com

Born: July 6, 1946

Hometown: Midland, Texas

Education: Phillips Academy (Massachusetts), Yale University, Harvard University

Political career: Governor of Texas, 1995-present

Military service: F-102 pilot in Texas Air National Guard, 1969-73

Other interesting facts:

- Captain of high school baseball team and president of his senior class
- Owns a 1,500-acre ranch outside of Crawford, Texas
- Has two longhorn cattle named Ophelia and Ellie

Al Gore

View on agriculture: "As President, I'll fix the safety net that protects farm income, and push to expand markets and improve prices. And I'll lead the fight to ensure that economic concentration in agribusiness does not threaten the well-being of America's consumers and family farmers alike."

Gore plans to open foreign markets to American livestock and crops, and conserve natural resources and environmentally-important land. He also promises to develop ethanol and other new agriculture-based products in order to increase the nation's farm income by billions of dollars.

Democratic National Committee: 430 South Capitol Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20003; 202/863-8000; www.democrats.org

Party: Democrat

Contact: 615/340-2000; www.algore.com

Born: March 31, 1948

Hometown: Carthage, Tennessee

Education: St. Albans (Washington, D.C.), Harvard University, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Vanderbilt Law School

Political career: U.S. House of Representatives, 1977-1985; U.S. Senate, 1985-1993; Vice President, 1993-present

Military service: Army, 1969-1971

Other interesting facts:

- Played three varsity sports in high school
- College buddy with actor Tommy Lee Jones
- Spent childhood summers on the family farm in Tennessee

also on the ballot

There are numerous so-called "third parties," among them the Libertarian Party, the Southern Party, the Socialist Party, and ex-wrestler Jesse Ventura's new Independence Party. Two major third-parties likely to cause a stir this November are the Reform Party and the Green Party.

Reform Party: Reform Party USA, P.O. Box 9, Dallas, TX 75221; www.reformparty.org.
Best-known candidate: Pat Buchanan (www.buchananreform.com).
Position on agriculture: As part of his proposed Bill of Rights for the Family Farm, Buchanan would abolish all inheritance and capital gains taxes on family farms. He would also try to repeal NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) and boost ethanol production.

Green Party: Association of State Green Parties, PMB 329, 6378 South Broadway, Boulder, CO 80303; www.greenparties.org.
Candidate: Ralph Nader (www.votenader.com).
Position on agriculture: "We call for the establishment of an ecologically based sustainable agricultural system that moves as rapidly as possible towards regional/bioregional self reliance."

The American Farm Bureau (202/484-3600; www.fb.org) will be posting details about each candidate's positions on agricultural issues in their publication, "Farm Bureau News." Look for it in early September, after all candidates are officially nominated.

back to the basics

By Jeri Mattics

Chasing a dream job in soil and water management

Melissa Kenney, last year's national proficiency award winner in soil and water management, shared some shots from her photo album with us. Here, she's visiting Costa Rica to learn more about that country's agriculture and conservation methods.

Where would we be without fertile soil and clean water? We wouldn't. That's why Melissa Kenney, an FFA member from Bridgewater, Virginia, plans to be among the new generation of conservationists who will strive to make the planet a better place to live for people, animals and plants.

Named the National Soil and Water Management Proficiency Award winner at last year's national FFA convention, Melissa's interest in environmental science began when she was a child. Her parents always stressed the importance of water, energy and waste conservation. "It started just by doing my part around the house to be earth friendly," she says. "Then I began stream monitoring and getting involved in environmental-related activities and projects."

Getting her feet wet

She's putting her skills to practice this summer by working on a watershed study in Shenandoah National Park. "Mainly, we're researching how the underlying geology and acid rain together effect the water quality of the mountain streams. We study the health of the streams and the wildlife they support," Melissa explains.

She graduated from Turner Ashby High School in 1998 and is now a junior at the University of Virginia where she is working on a degree in environmental science with an emphasis in hydrology. Melissa plans to pursue a career in watershed education and management.

Career outlook

The career opportunities in soil and water management are large and wide-ranging. Entry-level jobs vary, with some requiring a two-year college degree, others a bachelors or masters degree or a doctorate. Starting salaries range from $25,000 to $50,000, depending on job location and education level. Some positions are in the conservation and environmental protection area, while others are directly related to agriculture.

"I'm looking for people who know the basics, who have a good, solid understanding of agriculture and know how to work with farmers," says John Mascoe of Greenfield, Indiana, who works for Adcon Telemetry, which manufactures and sells radio telemetry systems to help crop producers track weather, temperature and soil conditions. "We can teach people the high technology information. We need people who can walk in, understand our business and who are motivated to learn."

The FFA edge

Carol Snyder, Ph.D., a former FFA member, is vice president of agriculture and operations at Red Hen Systems/Farmer's Software in Fort Collins, Colorado. She stresses the importance of skills students can develop in FFA. "The soft skills are so important," she says. "I learned things in FFA that I use everyday-public speaking, how to run an effective meeting, people and decision-making skills. These are all competencies employers are looking for."

Talk to your FFA advisor and visit www.ffa.org for more information on careers in soil and water management, or how you can get involved in a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) or Career Development Event (CDE) in this area.

Catching bites crabs in Chesapeake Bay.

Taking a break from work on a farm.

Performing a lab analysis of stream water

Preparing materials to be used in a stream bank restoration.

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Tougher than a

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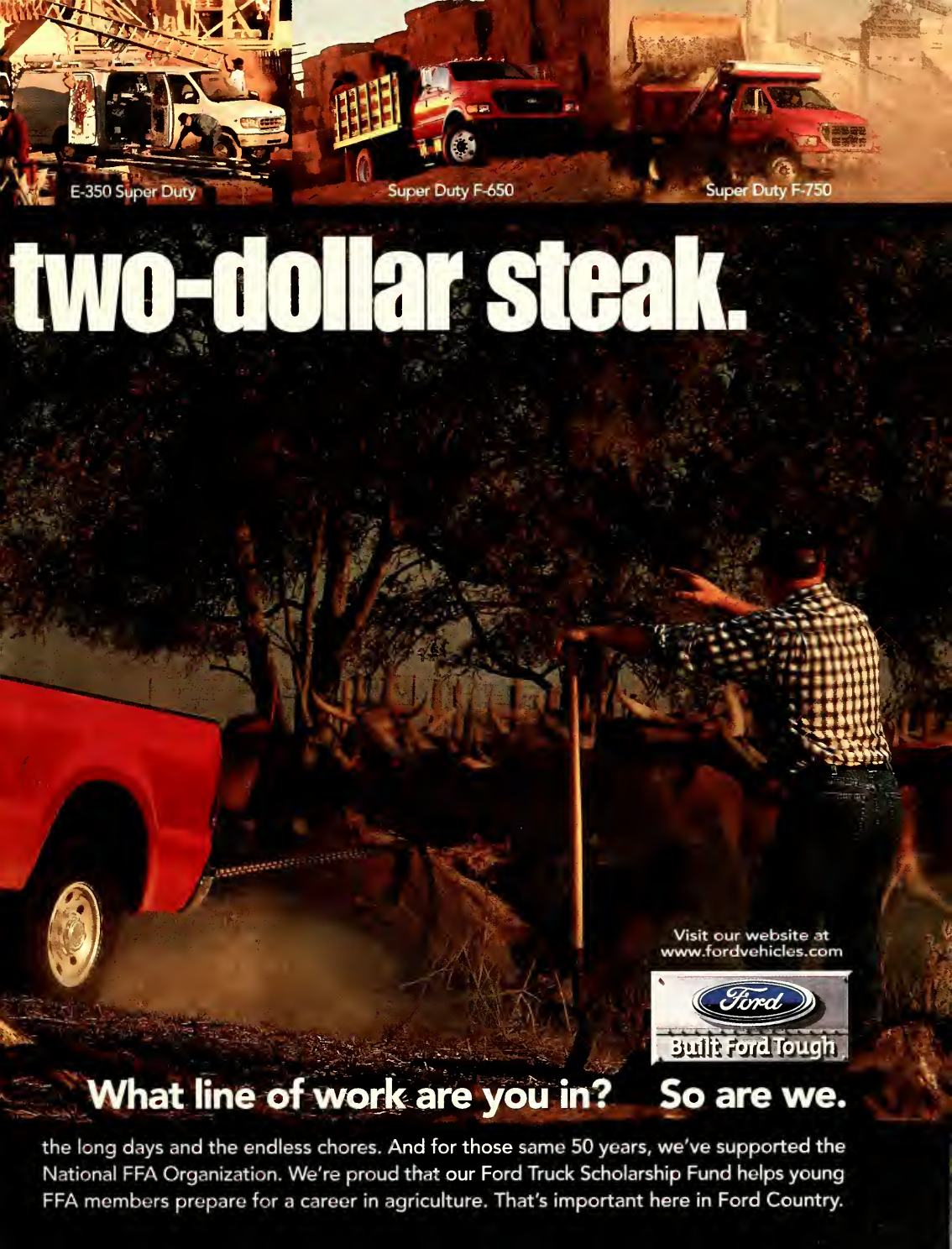
There are certain things you naturally associate with farms: tractors, silos and tough Ford trucks. In fact, if you have any more than a small vegetable patch, an F-150 or two can be downright necessary. For over 50 years, farmers have depended on Ford to keep up with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volunteerism

Feeling great about improving your community—and the world

When Hurricane Mitch tore through Central America last summer, the Heritage FFA Chapter from Monroeville, Indiana, wanted to help. Led by president Melissa O'Shaughnessey, the chapter secured backing from the school and local businesses for a relief mission that would benefit a hurricane-ravaged school.

Six members made the trip to Honduras, taking with them a huge load of goods, including backpacks, school supplies, flashlights, soccer balls, baseball gloves and more. The Heritage crew helped in the cleanup effort by tutoring students, planting trees and lending a hand for rebuilding. They also visited area farms and socialized with Honduran high school students.

Helping hay

A similar volunteerism story unfolded two summers ago in Franklin Grove, Illinois.

During a prolonged drought in the southwestern United States, a couple of Franklin Grove FFA members got to talking about the challenges the farming communities in Oklahoma and Texas faced in trying to find hay for their livestock. Before the day was done, the chapter members decided they could help. "We just decided to go for it," says Jeremy Phelps, a sophomore at the time. "We were having a good hay year and it just seemed like the thing to do. It wasn't very hard. In fact, it was surprising how many people wanted to help."

Mark Delhotal, this year's Franklin Grove chapter sentinel, tells how things started: "After we decided to do the hay drive, we sent out notices and started calling farmers. Our biggest problem was that we had too much hay donated and had to figure out how to return about 500 bales. The key was teamwork. Everyone had an assignment to carry out." In less than a month, Franklin Grove hooked up with an Oklahoma FFA chapter whose members were in need of hay. The Illinois crew collected more than 1,500 bales and found a local trucking company that delivered the hay free of charge.

Going local

While most volunteerism projects happen a bit closer to home, the hurricane and hay stories show that anything is possible if you put your mind to it.

Yoakum, Texas, FFA members really know how to make a local project a big success. Every year they host a Safety Day Camp where they teach children everything from calling 911 to lawn mower and large animal safety.

"This program is just great," says Mac Lass, a Yoakum FFA member who has assisted with the last two camps. "We get to know the kids and we teach them a lot of important lessons. It makes you feel good to know you're helping to keep them safe and maybe even giving them information that will someday save their lives."

Christy Scott (left) and Melissa O'Shaughnessey, members of the Heritage FFA Chapter, visit with school children during the Hurricane Mitch relief effort last summer.

As the days of summer wind down, now is the time for you to start brainstorming volunteerism project ideas. Try to find a project you and the other chapter members feel is important and meaningful. The opportunities are limitless.

Did you know?

Your chapter's community service projects can be used in your FFA chapter's Program of Activities. This can get you a step closer to success in the National Chapter Award Program.

Looking for ideas?

The following organizations can help you get a project rolling in your area:

- **National FFA Partners, www.ffa.org/partners/links/home.html (317) 802-6060**
- **America's Promise, www.americaspromise.org (888) 55-YOUTH**
- **American Red Cross, www.redcross.org (202) 639-3520**
- **Habitat for Humanity, www.habitat.org (800) HABITAT**
- **Progressive Farmer Safety Day Camps, www.progressivefarmer.com (360) 293-5507**
- **Volunteers of America, www.voa.org (703) 548-2288**

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Americans eat the equivalent of

100 acres of pizza every day

or 350 slices

per second

pizz

a slice of agriculture

by chris hayhurst

Here's a fact to make your stomach groan: Americans eat the equivalent of 100 acres of pizza every day, or about 350 slices per second. Hungry pizza lovers spend tens of billions of dollars on nearly 3 billion pizzas every year. The chances are better than 90 percent that you—yes, you—ate at least one pizza last month. Even if you do happen to be one of the very few Americans who would sooner eat Brussels sprouts than a pepperoni pie, you can hardly argue—in the U.S.A., pizza rules.

So where does all this pizza come from? According to John Schnatter, the founder and CEO of the country's fastest-growing pizza chain, Papa John's International, the answer is right beneath our feet: the land. "The story of every Papa John's pizza begins with the best farmers in the best fields," says Schnatter. Pizza, apparently, owes its very existence—from the dough that defines it to the tomatoes, meats and vegetables that almost always top it off—to agriculture.

say cheese

Consider this: Papa John's alone requires 75,000 dairy cows producing a quarter of a million gallons of milk every day to produce the mozzarella cheese for its pies. This year they'll use more than a billion tomatoes in their sauce. To keep up with its delivery pace of 350 pizzas every minute of the day, the company must buy millions of pounds of olives, green peppers, onions and mushrooms from farmers around the world. While you're stuffing yourself with slices, they're fretting over flour—and the wheat from which it's made. "We focus on making pizza," says Karen Sherman, a spokesperson for Papa John's. "And we focus on quality."

There's no doubt about it—to make a top-notch pie, you've got to focus on top-notch ingredients. Toward that end, Papa John's plucks tomatoes fresh off the vine

Likewise, the tomatoes are zipped from the field to the cannery, cooked down to sauce—perfect thickness and canned—all within hours of being picked. Everything—dough, sauce, cheese, and fresh meat and vegetables—is then trucked out to the more than 2,300 individual Papa John's restaurants. Last year the company's rigs logged more than 14 million miles on the road.

When the oven doors open and the pizza is pulled out, the final product—flat and round, splashed with color, bubbling cheese baked golden brown—is a sight to see. As any pizza lover with a nose can tell, this culinary work of art—first invented thousands of years ago by the Greeks, later perfected by the Italians and finally brought overseas to the United States—is only as good as the sum of its parts.

And those parts, whether sausage and onion with extra cheese, pepperoni and peppers with lots of garlic, or "everything hold the anchovies," are some of the best the land can offer. Delicious? Indeed. ☆

Consider this:

Papa John's alone requires 75,000 dairy cows producing a quarter of a million gallons of milk every day to produce the mozzarella cheese for its pies

in California, mushrooms from Portabella farms in Pennsylvania and ripe black olives from the finest groves of southern Spain. The milk comes from dairy farms in Michigan and the meat comes from cattle farms in Kansas. Green peppers and onions are purchased from local markets and cut fresh at each restaurant.

Pulling it all together

Once the ingredients are harvested, it's time to shift gears. The wheat is milled and the flour is blended with salt, sugar, soybean oil and yeast. This blend is then shipped to one of the company's many regional kitchens where it's mixed with filtered water and made into dough. The dough, in turn, is molded into balls.

Of course, once all the ingredients reach the restaurant, the story continues. The dough, under refrigeration for three days to allow critical flavors to develop, is slapped into shape. The cans of fresh-packed sauce are opened, spices are added and the mix is poured on the pies. Ground beef, sausage and fresh vegetables are sliced, diced and added as needed—and according to customer demands. Cheese tops it all off. Then, the final step: The pies are placed in the oven.

This year Papa John's will use more than a billion tomatoes in their sauce

Did you know? Papa John's, sponsor of the national FFA Creed competition, will have a booth at the National FFA Career Show this year in Louisville.

sleeping in

can't roll out of bed in the morning? it's not your fault

By Chris Hayhurst

Feeling sleepy? You're not alone. A recent survey conducted by the National Sleep Foundation (NSF) revealed that 60 percent of people under the age of 18 complain of being tired during the day. Many of those kids report being so exhausted, in fact, that they fall asleep in school.

That probably comes as no surprise. If you're like most teens, even the simple act of getting out of bed in the morning takes everything you've got. The alarm goes off, your parents bang on your bedroom door, the alarm goes off again—you know the routine. Waking up is an all-out battle.

Why? According to Susan Sagusti, the program manager of the NSF's Sleep and Teens Task Force, you can blame those rough mornings on nature. Thanks to the body's normal "circadian rhythm," most teenagers aren't physiologically ready to fall asleep before 11 p.m.

not enough hours in the day

Because the average high school student requires about nine hours of sleep to be fully refreshed, and most school days kick in before 7:30 in the morning, well—you do the math.

Compounding the issue is what Sagusti refers to as "sleep debt": the hours of sleep your body owes itself but can never seem to afford, thanks to school, work, sports and other factors. "The higher your sleep debt," says Sagusti, "the more your brain wants to go to sleep."

In essence, every time you force yourself out of bed, it just gets worse. And even when you do squeeze in the mandatory nine, you're still destined to be a zombie all day.

When the weekend arrives, you're ready to unwind, so you stay up late at night then sleep in all morning. This feels great, but it's only temporary. On Monday morning, the alarm clock war resumes.

Your body's sleep preferences will change as you enter your 20's (in fact, you need less sleep as you get older). Until then, wake up!

For ideas on how to get a good night's sleep, contact the National Sleep Foundation, 202.347.3471 or visit their Web site at www.sleepfoundation.org

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For more information about careers in Ag Ed, check out the web site at www.ffa.org or email teachaged@ffa.org.

The Roscoe FFA Chapter in Texas claims this issue's "Hot Chapter" award for sending in more What's Hot/What's Not surveys that any other chapter. Send in the attached survey today or e-mail your picks to egaukel@mindspring.com

hot	american pie (movie)	titanic	not
hot	julia roberts (female actor)	goldie hawn	not
hot	adam sandler (actor)	leonardo dicaprio	not
hot	yahoo.com (web site)	mtv.com	not
hot	friends (tv show)	full house	not
hot	doctor (career)	garbage collector	not
hot	george strait (country artist)	billy ray cyrus	not
hot	dr. dre (rap artist)	puff daddy	not
hot	kid rock (rock artist)	marilyn manson	not
hot	dale earnhardt (nascar driver)	jeff gordon	not

The categories for this issue's What's Hot/What's Not survey all have something to do with the soon-to-end summer. Fill out those surveys and send them in right away!

what's hot

Summer job _____

Summer movie _____

Baseball team _____

Soap opera _____

Clothing style for males _____

Clothing style for females _____

Outdoor activity _____

Evening activity _____

Ice cream flavor _____

Place you visited this summer _____

Summer food _____

what's not

Summer job _____

Summer movie _____

Baseball team _____

Soap opera _____

Clothing style for males _____

Clothing style for females _____

Outdoor activity _____

Evening activity _____

Ice cream flavor _____

Place you visited this summer _____

Summer food _____

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savings bonds

A simple and inexpensive way to start saving

By Steve Dinnen

Few of us are born millionaires. So we have to come into it the old-fashioned way—earn it, save it and invest it.

That can be tough to do, with interest rates on savings accounts paying a pretty puny 2 to 2.5 percent in interest. But there is a better way to accumulate some wealth, and one that takes very little up-front cash—U.S. Savings Bonds.

Savings bonds are sold by the U.S. government to help fund its debt payments. There are two main bonds, I and EE. An I bond currently pays 7.49 percent interest, which is just about the best rate around for an investment whose full repayment is guaranteed by Uncle Sam. EE bonds are paying 5.73 percent, which means that with either bond you'll earn almost as much as, if not more than, a bank certificate of deposit (also called a CD) is paying. An EE bond pays a fixed rate of interest. That means if you buy it today you'll get that 5.73 percent interest all the time you own the bond after a minimum holding period.

An I bond's rate of return changes with conditions in the nation's financial markets. Every six months, that interest rate will change, so if you own a bond for 15 years, you'll get paid back an amount that's determined by blending-in 30 periods of interest.

It's easy to get a bond. Just march into your local bank, savings-and-loan or credit union—just about any of them will sell you a bond. They'll send your application and money to the U.S. Bureau of the Public Debt, which runs the savings bond program, and in a month or so it will mail you the bond.

Tuck those bonds away in a safe place—a safety deposit box is best. When you get ready to cash them in, just return to the financial institution and they'll arrange payment.

It's that easy.

Savings bonds offer these advantages

1) You don't have to be rich to play the game. An EE bond costs as little as $25, while the cheapest I bond sells for $50 (you can spend up to $10,000 on one, too, if you're really flush with cash).

2) You can buy bonds if you're a minor. Depending on the state where you live, you can't make an investment in stocks or bonds until you're 18 or 21. That's not the case with savings bonds.

3) Starting to pay income taxes? Interest on bonds is exempt from state and local income taxes. Bonds also avoid federal income taxes if they're used to pay for higher education tuition or fees.

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point & click

too much information

Using search engines to find what you're looking for on the Internet

Welcome to the premiere of our newest department in the magazine. It's about the new world we're living in, where, with a simple point and click, you can listen to a Russian radio station, download your favorite music and chat with anyone anywhere on the planet.

The Internet can be fun and informative. It's also a regular part of doing business. Just to give you an idea of how much we use the Internet here at *FFA New Horizons*: All the stories in this issue of the magazine were digitized and sent in e-mails over the Internet multiple times, as they moved from writers to editors to our design team. We also use the Internet for researching stories, making travel plans and posting messages on the bulletin boards at www.ffa.org

We hope you will find this page useful as you use and explore the Internet. If there are topics you'd like to see us discuss here, send us an e-mail at ngauker@mindspring.com

The Internet can do lots of things very well, like making it easier for us to buy CDs and find out who won the Astros and Reds game last night. But have you ever tried using the Internet for researching a term paper for school? Sure, you'll find some useful nuggets out there, but in the process you'll spend valuable time wading through useless sites that take forever to download. Knowing where to start is the key to successful Internet research. There are several good web sites where you can type in a key word or key phrase and it will search the Internet for matches. These sites are called search engines. Here are some of the most widely used:

- www.yahoo.com
- www.altavista.com
- www.infoseek.com
- www.excite.com
- www.netscape.com
- www.lycos.com

Narrowing it down

Each of these search engines operates in a slightly different way, though they're all easy to learn and use. If you're doing your paper on forestry, for example, you might want to start with a general search using "forestry" as the key word. Most search engines have an easy-to-find window where you type your key word or key phrase. Once you type it in and hit return, the search engine will scan the Internet for every site that includes that word or phrase.

Chances are, you'll get thousands of matches. The most relevant sites are listed first, so if you don't find anything useful in the first 20 or so listed, it's time to narrow your search. You can do this by using more key words or a different key phrase. If your paper is specifically about careers in forestry, try typing in both "forestry" and "careers" as key words.

When digging through the web sites for research projects at school, keep in mind that many web sites are outdated and many contain inaccurate information. It's always wise to compare information from multiple web sites, then try to verify the information at the library or by talking to experts in that field.

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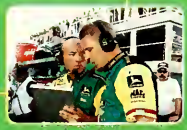


all

A NASCAR pit crew, like a chapter officer team, pulls together to achieve success

Just for a minute, imagine your FFA chapter is the number 97 Winston Cup car. Yes, the same yellow and green John Deere-FFA car driven in the recent Coca-Cola 600 race at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte, North Carolina.

If you're a chapter officer—or aspire to someday become one-imagine your officer team is the pit crew for car number 97. When the car's wheels become worn, the tank needs refueling, the driver needs a Gatorade, the windshield

needs cleaned or the radiator needs coolant, one person alone can't handle the task. It takes the entire crew to get the job done.

Chapter pit crew

As an FFA chapter officer team, you face the same types of challenges. You are, in a way, your chapter's pit crew. In the next month, school will start and you will need to prepare your car—or chapter—to hit high gear when you see the green flag. During the course of the race—or year—you'll have to work together to make sure your chapter is in a position for a great finish.

Like an FFA chapter has a president, a pit crew also has a leader. He's called the crew chief, or sometimes the "quarterback." This person directs the efforts of the crew and maintains constant radio communication with the driver.

Jeff Hammond, number 97's crew chief, advises the driver on strategy, fuel estimates and technical issues. He also listens to the driver's needs and helps him in any way he can. As a two-time Winston Cup champion crew chief, Jeff is successful because he knows how to plan, anticipate problems and keep his team working together.

A chapter president, with the help of the rest of the team, also has to be willing to offer advice when needed and be able to listen to the needs of the chapter.

Jeff's goal is to keep the crew, the driver and the car running at peak performance. During the Coca-Cola 600, mechanical problems slowed the car down early in the race, but Jeff, the driver and the crew made corrections and turned in a quality performance.

Role players

Pit crew members hold titles such as "gas man" (this person refuels the car) and "jack man" (this person jacks up the car so other crew members can change the tires). All contribute equally to the team's success. When every second counts, members of this team don't waste a breath or step. Each member knows his individual responsibility, the lines of authority and the importance of teamwork.

Kelly Horton, who specializes in student leadership development at the National FFA Organization in Indianapolis, finds it interesting that the principles of successful NASCAR racing also apply to FFA chapter officer teams. "Successful teamwork involves a common mission, with each member understanding the team's goals and objectives. Team leaders can identify and develop individual talents. Other elements of successful teamwork are trust and conflict resolution. You certainly see a great deal of all these elements during a high-speed, high-stakes NASCAR event."

Crew chief Jeff Hammond.

All of the elements of preparation, hard work and team effort paid off as driver Chad Little maneuvered the John Deere-FFA Ford up 18 positions to a 20th-place finish. The top-20 performance was Little's seventh of the season. He remains in the top 20 in the Winston Cup point standings, with much of the season ahead of him and 450,000 FFA members to cheer him on.

Little, while thanking his team for its effort, said, "We finished the night in the top 20, and during a 600-mile race that's no small feat. Granted, we wanted to get the John Deere—FFA Ford in the top 10, but with some of our early problems that made it difficult. Our finish says a lot about this team and the fight not to give up."

As you'll find out with your own chapter, success doesn't always mean taking the checkered flag. If you and your officer team give it everything you've got, you will have been successful.

The national FFA officer team gets a closer look at No. 97.

FFA on the hood

How did the FFA emblem get on the hood of a NASCAR racer?

It's part of the longstanding relationship between FFA and John Deere, a NASCAR sponsor for several years and the longest-standing corporate sponsor of the National FFA Foundation, which raises funds for FFA programs and services nationwide.

"The partnership between FFA and John Deere is stronger than ever," says National FFA Advisor Larry D. Case. "After all, FFA has been in existence for 71 years, and John Deere has been a corporate sponsor for 56 of them."

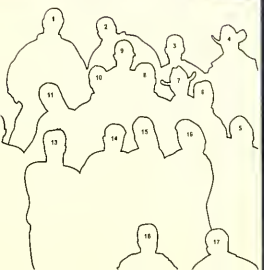
"Driving the John Deere-FFA car demands leadership both on and off the track," says Little, a former college athlete, law school graduate and an accomplished racer. "That's why I'm glad to be a part of this relationship. Both John Deere and FFA represent the best in their fields of leadership, integrity and vision for the future."

Little is big on FFA

During pre-race activities at the giant speedway, Chad Little presented an award to the national FFA officers, commemorating the debut of the John Deere-FFA car and recognizing FFA for youth development.

"When I spoke at last year's national FFA convention," Little says, "I realized how important FFA is to the development of young people on a nationwide scale. FFA is developing tomorrow's leaders, and like NASCAR, has grown from its rural roots to include both cities and rural communities."

1. Trouble
2. Chas
3. Lost Sheep
4. Daddy
5. Frosty
6. City Girl
7. Bull
8. Chuck
9. All Star
10. Stone Cold
11. Queenie
12. Mooch
13. Shepard
14. Traveler
15. Princess
16. Animal Lover
17. Bo Peep
18. Big Trouble



Twenty X BY WRANGLER

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Q: What did the elevator say to the other?
A: I think I'm coming down with something.

Jamie Calhoun
Calvin, Louisiana

Q: Miss-ouri lent Mississ-ippi her New Jersey. What will Dela-ware?
A: Da-kota.

Jeremy Dankert
Alamosa, Colorado

Q: What does a frog get with his hamburger?
A: A side order of flies.

Jim Jansen
Fordyce, Nebraska

Q: Why did the goat receive an F on his homework?
A: He and his dog ate it.

Christopher Bryant
Epes, Alabama

Q: What do you do with two pieces of bread in the desert?
A: Make a sandwich.

Abby Bayer
Ringle, Wisconsin

Q: How many cowboys does it take to screw in a lightbulb?
A: Three, because while one screws in the lightbulb, the other two have to make up a song.

J.J. Post
Granite Falls, Washington

Q: : Why did the troll take a bale of hay to bed with him?
A: To feed his night-mares.

Kamm Rhoton
Duncan, Arizona

Q: What do computers eat for snacks?
A: Micro-chips.

Marie Meyer
Austin, Texas

Q: What did one firefly say to another?
A: You glow, girl!

Audrey Formo
Granite Falls, Minnesota

Q: What do snakes do after they fight?
A: Hiss and make up.

Tess Taylor
Norwich, Ohio

Q: Why did the scientist install a knocker on his door?
A: So he could win the No-Bell prize.

Tasha Coon
Ratliff City, Oklahoma

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Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf

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